

Climate Friendly Parks Program Welcomes New Member Parks in the National Capital Region



Since 2003, the Climate Friendly Parks (CFP) program has helped National Parks measure park-based greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; educate park staff and the public about climate change; and develop strategies and specific actions to address sustainability challenges and reduce GHG emissions. The program has progressed significantly since its establishment and grown to nearly 80 member parks. Today, we would like to welcome four new member parks from the National Capital Region!

The Climate Friendly Parks Program would like to welcome C&O Canal National Historical Park, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Prince William Forest Park and Rock Creek Park. All four parks successfully completed each of the CFP milestones which include identifying park greenhouse gas emissions via the Climate Leadership in Parks (CLIP) Tool, participating in educational and action planning workshops and developing a plan forward which outlines GHG reduction goals and specific actions to reduce emissions. To meet these goals, parks reviewed their current actions, policies and practices and identified and planned future actions to further reduce emissions. Through this process, each park developed a Climate Action Plan which includes several strategies to help them meet their GHG reduction goals.

C&O Canal National Historical Park

The park has committed to several goals aimed at reducing GHG emissions. To meet their goals, the following strategies and actions have been developed:

- Strategy: Reduce GHG emissions from park transportation by 15 percent below 2010 levels by 2016
 - Action: Upgrade vehicles and other fuel-powered tools to reduce GHG emission and install alternative fuel and electric infrastructure (e.g. solar panel charging stations)
 - Action: Develop renewable energy source
 - Action: Investigate geothermal climate control and identify additional opportunities for geothermal heating/cooling
- Strategy: Increase climate change education and outreach
 - Action: Educate park staff on how to reduce GHG emissions via virtual meetings, energy-saving tip emails, light switch signage.
 - Action: Educate visitors about climate change risks and impacts at the park by developing educational programming

George Washington Memorial Parkway

The park developed several emissions reduction goals and subsequent actions to meet their commitment of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emission from park operations by 2.4 percent below 2009 levels by 2016. To achieve this, several strategies and subsequent actions were developed. These include:

- Strategy: Reduce GHG emissions from park energy use by 2 percent below 2009 levels by 2016
 - Action: Reduce purchased electricity in park buildings
 - Action: Explore the use of renewable energy

- Strategy: Increase climate change and greenhouse gas emissions reduction education and outreach
 - Action: Educate park staff – Provide training for all staff at a CFP review meeting
 - Action: Educate visitors – develop and maintain consistent messaging for signs, brochures and programs

Prince William Forest Park

The park has committed to reducing GHG emissions from park operations by 20 percent below 2008 levels by 2016. To do so, several strategies and actions were developed including:

- Strategy: Reduce GHG emissions from park energy use by 12 percent below 2008 levels by 2016
 - Action: Reduce energy consumption in park buildings by installing insta-hot systems for hot water use in park kitchens and baths
 - Action: Turn off vending machine lights (except in public areas)
- Strategy: Increase climate change education and outreach
 - Action: Educate park employees about how to reduce GHG emissions by hosting competitions to reduce personal use
 - Action: Develop a plan for procurement of environmentally friendly products

Rock Creek Park

The park has committed to reducing GHG emissions from park operations by 9 percent below 2009 levels by 2016. Strategies and actions outlined to meet this goal include:

- Strategy: Reduce GHG emissions from transportation by 5 percent below 2009 levels by 2016
 - Action: Upgrade park fleet and infrastructure to reduce emissions from mobile combustion
 - Action: Study fleet use at a macro level to identify opportunities to right-size fleet.
- Strategy: Reduce GHG emissions from waste by 20 percent below 2009 levels by 2016
 - Action: Increase opportunities for recycling to reduce solid waste
 - Action: Conduct ISWAP or other waste analysis to identify best opportunities for reduction

The Climate Friendly Parks program will continue to support existing member parks by providing updated guidance in our new program handbook as well as an annual voluntary survey for parks to identify their successes and how the WASO CFP team can provide support. We also hope to welcome many new parks into the program as we work to integrate CFP action planning into park Environmental Management Systems (EMS) while improving and increasing our communication with regions and parks throughout the Service.

For more information about the Climate Friendly Parks program and to explore member park Action Plans - click [More Information](#) below.